

CHAPEL May 31, 1933

-- President Wright

AKU

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 56, Chapters 1 and 2.

I selected this passage of scripture this morning because I believe we are probably in the dawning of the fulfilment of that prophecy. "Thus sayeth the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice---" and judgment there means the same as our word equity--"for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed."

We have had a good year in many, many respects. To me, from the standpoint of finances, it has been a most hectic year because of the state's financial condition -- but that is my trouble and not yours. I think, to take the college as a whole, we have had, probably, the finest spirit in college I have ever seen. There have been some things, to be sure, that have troubled us, but sometimes troubles are good for us. A philosopher once said it was a good thing for a dog to have fleas, so he wouldn't have time to brood on the fact that he was a dog.

I want to thank you for the splendid spirit you have shown this year and want to tell you I believe we are in the beginning of the most glorious day we have ever seen. There are signs, things being done, indications that to me mean ~~that~~ we are not only getting out of this financial slump, but are coming into ^a ~~this~~ higher sphere of living. I have said in most of my commencement speeches this spring, and I have made a number, that I believe we are in the great spiritual battle of the Argonne; the forces of right are on one side and the forces of evil on the other. The great conflict back there in the world war developed out of a desire for temporal things. Of course, we have to pay for that, we always do. There is no truer statement written than that by Paul "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever ^a man soweth that shall he also reap." That applies not only to individuals but to nations. We have been living

in a period when things material dominated all our thinking. We have been living in a period when a man who is rich is king. We are today beginning to question all that. # When this country was first builded the people engaged in agriculture. Agriculture dominated the group that organized the government; Laws were made with agricultural interests dominant. Next in importance was commerce. In a short time they began manufacturing, so we had industry, including commerce, on one hand and agriculture on the other. Soon we built railroads. Railroads were classified as ^{industry} commerce. Then came the great war between the states; ~~the~~ civil war. It looked like people in the middle west would join those in the southern states, but they didn't; partly because of hatred following the war. So we had a period when what I am calling industry was dominant in our government and all kinds of laws in favor of industry and against agriculture were made. The result is that agriculture has gone down until people who live on farms are barely able to live. Many have lost their farms. Then great corporations have been built up that have dominated the government. Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to really fight corporations, but they had control in this country. All this, you will notice, is materialistic. While this was going on people began to realize there are spiritual values. The public school system grew and developed until it is recognized as one of the great factors in the country. Public education, I believe, is responsible for the realization of the condition we are in today. Immediately following the great world war financial interests became the dominant thing. People went absolutely wild for material things. Corporations were created and stock was sold with absolutely nothing back of ~~them~~. Some people made fortunes. This went on for several years and then came the financial crash, the great stock market collapse. Now the president of the United States realized as no other president has seemed to realize that agricultural interests in this country must be taken care of

as well as industry and finances. We are face to face, with a situation such as the nation has never known before, but with a real genuine realization that for the nation to prosper we must have secure financial arrangements--banking laws must be made right. We must carry on in our industries of various and sundry kinds, but industry and commerce cannot prosper unless other interests prosper also, unless agriculture, the foundation of it all, prospers. ~~also~~.

I believe our people are beginning to see that to be material is to be destroyed. Right living is necessary, is essential, if we prosper. You see the significance of this passage of scripture.

I do not think you need this talk, as individuals, but it is worth something for us to see the situation. I firmly believe that God is in His Heaven and that it is going to work out all right. We are facing a glorious future, but we must have faith and love for our fellow man; we must do righteousness ourselves, we must live right kind of lives. I think the great majority of you young folks realize that. People who are willing to take short cuts that they may make temporary gains are the people who are going to be looked upon as black sheep in the civilization of tomorrow.

I don't want you to get discouraged. Have faith, faith in yourselves, in your fellowman, and above that faith in your government, and above all faith in Jehovah. God is using this period to bring the world to a realization that Jehovah is the only true and living God and the people following the teachings of Jehovah are the people who will make a new world order, ^{one} that will bring out the best there is in the world.

I can't tell you what the school situation will be this year, because I do not know. It depends altogether on what this new Educational Commission does, but we do know we are going to take hold of the situation as it ^{is} and not let the blight of this period write itself into the lives of the boys and girls.

To you who are leaving I bid you godspeed. May this life have for you richness. From the depths of my heart you have my very, very best wishes and my love for every one of you.